

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 8-20 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 6, 10, and 18 have been amended, and claim 7 is cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7, which has been cancelled. Claim 6 is therefore in condition for allowance, together with dependent claims 8 and 9.

Claim 18 has been amended, in part, to correct a typographical error, in which the term "multilayer" was misspelled. This correction does not affect the scope of the claim.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 9, 10, and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cremonesi et al. (US 6,268,247) in view of Libera et al. (US 2002/00060349), and has rejected claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cremonesi and Libera and further in view of Dixit et al. (US 4,960,732).

Claims 6, 8, and 9 have been placed in condition for allowance, as detailed above, and so the rejection thereof, which is now moot, will not be addressed.

Amended claim 10 recites, in part, "a first portion of a multilayer structure formed, with a first width, over the first transistor and, with a second width, greater than the first width, over a region of the insulating layer..."

As the Examiner has acknowledged with the allowance of claim 7, none of the art of record teaches or suggests the limitation quoted above. Accordingly, the cited prior art cannot teach or suggest all the elements of claim 10, which is therefore allowable. Claims 11-17 are also now in condition for allowance as depending from an allowable base claim.

While amended claim 18 differs in scope from claim 10, applicants believe that claim 18 is allowable for reasons similar to those outlined in support of the allowability of claim 10. Dependent claims 19 and 20 are also, therefore, allowable.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are requested. In the event the Examiner believes there are outstanding issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner

Application No. 10/715,887
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2005

is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at (206) 694-4848 in order to resolve prosecution of this application.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold H. Bennett II", is written over a horizontal line.

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